

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 98

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee Technological University.

WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, the people of Putnam County lobbied for a school of higher learning for their sons and daughters; and

WHEREAS, local religious and business leaders established a private school, Dixie College, for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, Cookeville and Putnam County governments offered to help pay for the building and grounds of the college to support a county and technical high school and junior college if the school were deeded to the State as a public institution; and

WHEREAS, a bill recommending this arrangement was introduced in 1915 by the Fifty-ninth General Assembly, amending 1909 Chapter 264, the General Education Bill, and passing after long and constructive debate; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 1915, Governor Thomas Clarke Rye signed the bill into law, establishing Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Tech provided public education at a college level for the first time in the Upper Cumberland section of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Tech faced numerous challenges during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II; and

WHEREAS, students, faculty, and community leaders overcame economic hardships to not only ensure the survival of Tennessee Tech, but to advance its programs; and

WHEREAS, in the postwar economy of the 1950s and 1960s, Tennessee Tech expanded graduate programs, doubled the size of its campus, and increased its enrollment tenfold; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these achievements, Governor Frank Clement signed legislation approving the school's elevation to university status in 1965, from then on being known as Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, committed to the need for more scientific and technological education—tempered by the arts and humanities, business and education, agriculture and human ecology, nursing, health sciences, and interdisciplinary studies—Tennessee Tech continues to flourish; and

WHEREAS, having granted more than 78,000 degrees since its founding one hundred years ago, Tennessee Tech, today, offers more than forty fields of study, leading to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees through its seven colleges and one school; and

WHEREAS, mindful of the legacy of its past, Tennessee Tech respectfully acknowledges that the hard work and determination of its founders and those who followed led to its success; and

WHEREAS, the faculty, administration, and students of Tennessee Tech pledge, on this most distinguished occasion, to work tirelessly to move the university into its next century with as much or more promise and potential as it had when chartered in 1915; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Tennessee Technological University on a century of excellence in higher education and join with its administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni as they celebrate the institution's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 27, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.